United Nations A/61/904–S/2007/270

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
11 May 2007

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda items 13 and 14

Security Council
Sixty-second year

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Identical letters dated 10 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to inform you of the highly disturbing escalation in the number of terror attacks by Palestinian terrorists operating in the Gaza Strip over the last month.

From Monday, 16 April 2007, until yesterday, Wednesday, 9 May 2007, 58 rockets were fired by Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip at Israeli communities in the south. These rocket attacks included the launching of Qassams and mortar shells, 22 of which detonated in Israeli territory. The rockets caused injury to civilians and property, and numerous civilians were treated for shock.

These relentless Palestinian terror attacks are in violation of the November 2006 ceasefire, which was agreed upon between Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and President Mahmoud Abbas. The Palestinian government, which Hamas still plays a significant role in, must adhere to the three conditions of the international community, and put an end to the violence and terror against Israel.

With the continuation of Palestinian terror and violence, the prospects for peace in the region deteriorate. Over the past month, we have witnessed an intensification and a broadening in the range of the rocket fire. As such, Israel will be forced to consider alternative approaches to confronting the terror.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 13 and 14, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dan **Gillerman**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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